

CLAIMS

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1. An immunoassay specific for mammalian γ -BNP derivatives, characterized in that it uses the first antibody reactive
5 with mammalian α -BNP and the second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or γ -BNP derivatives and not α -BNP.

2. The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the γ -BNP derivatives comprise the amino acid sequence shown by the amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

10 3 The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the second antibody is specific for the amino acid sequence shown by the amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. The immunoassay of ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of the first and the second antibodies is
15 detectably labeled or immobilized.

5. The immunoassay of ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

6. A kit for immunoassay specific for mammalian γ -BNP
20 derivatives, characterized in that it comprises the first antibody reactive with mammalian α -BNP and the second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or γ -BNP derivatives and not α -BNP.

7. The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first and the second antibodies is detectably labeled or immobilized.

25 8. The kit of claim 7 which further comprises a means for detecting the label.

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